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from a British banking group containing a conditional promise of underwriting up to some five million pounds sterling in support of a financial aspect of my plan of economical and agrarian reform and political relief for the populations of what was then European Turkey, of which territory Serb Macedonia, including the Vardar River valley and Preshevo watershed were features essential to my Danube-Aegean Canal project. That project in itself was designed to liberate Serb economic interests from Austria-Hungary and fix the trend of Serb economic policy southward (its only sound hope), looking toward ultimate Serb control of the ancient Serb region adjoining the Vardar River valley on the east, the control and possession of which by Serbia I considered—and this war has tragically justified that belief—to be the *sine qua non* of the existence of an independent Serb State. Another of these communications from the head of a German banking group, addressed not to me but to an English friend of mine, a statesman of renown, interested in my political ideas for the Near East, expresses willingness to underwrite the Turkish part of my project up to ten million pounds sterling, and contains also some allusions to the Persian oil fields and the Bagdad railway in the negotiations between German and British interests, in which my friend was then concerned.

The passages from my MSS. used in your review were chosen by me and I consented to their immediate publication, as it was believed the object-lesson of actual occurrence illustrating methods of Austrian procedure would be useful toward counteracting the present widespread defeatist attempts of the enemy, especially certain aspects of that propaganda, evidently heavily financed, which by the most insidious and plausible means are being projected into the public mind and obtaining hold on some persons hitherto loyal to a peace through victory, not only in this country, but in Great Britain, France, Italy, Switzerland, and at the Balkan front. A not unimportant auxiliary of that campaign is the camouflage action in Austria-Hungary in the formation of the so-called "People's Councils" movement—under the presidency and guidance of high dignitaries and devoted officials of the Hapsburg State!—and an information service worked through neutral countries, distributing news made at the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Office in Vienna.

LAZAROVICH-HREBELIANOVICH.

THE BIBLE AND PROHIBITION

SIR,—Your contributor, the Reverend John C. McKim, lays undue emphasis on the endeavors of the radical prohibitionists to find arguments for their cause in the Bible, particularly in the New Testament. I have read many arguments for and against prohibition, and have noted an increasing tendency to avoid those drawn from these sources. Most of the radical prohibitionists would probably dispose of the incident said to have occurred in Cana as John B. Gough once disposed of it. On a certain occasion when he was delivering a temperance lecture a man in the audience called out: "What about Christ turning water into wine?" Gough replied: "I have no objections to wine that is made of water." This was a silencer, but it was no answer. Some years ago a prominent clergyman said in my hearing: "If I went into a saloon and took a drink the act in itself would not be wrong; but my example would be

pernicious. I take the position of Saint Paul when he wrote: 'If food maketh my brother to offend,' etc.; and: 'All things are right for me,' etc."

The religious bodies in this country and in the outlying British dominions that have taken official action on the temperance question are mainly those that owe their doctrines and to some extent their polity to John Wesley. There are, however, among the Anglican clergy many total abstainers. One of these told me during a passage from Quebec to Liverpool in 1896 that they numbered more than four thousand. I supposed at the time that he had in mind only Great Britain, but he may have meant those in the whole British Empire.

The Methodist Book Concern publishes *The Cyclopedia of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals*, a volume of 400 pages. Its contents cover every phase of the problem and are interesting even if the arguments drawn from data given are not always logical. What the compilers think of the Bible in this connection may be read on page 48:

There is no ground for assuming that Christ used intoxicating wine other than that he was present on occasions when it may have been used. The Bible frequently records drinking without disapproval, but so does it actions of an admittedly vile character. It is not to be denied that Christ did not denounce the murderous tyranny of Rome and even said, "Render unto Caesar" his tax. Nor did Jesus speak directly against the false social position of women or lift his voice against slavery. The Old Testament presents a far stronger case for polygamy than for drink, a far stronger case for slavery and warfare of the most ruthless kind.

The Presbyterian Church has also a special organization for promoting prohibition, and its clergy are all total abstainers. The Catholic Prohibition League was organized in 1914. During the present century the prohibition forces have laid constantly diminishing stress on what may be called the theological arguments in support of their position, and a constantly increasing emphasis on economic and moral causes. The National Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized in 1874. Its scope was enlarged ten years later, and it became the World's Christian Temperance Union. The words, "Woman" and "Christian," are significant, as women had no vote at that time. These organizations depended solely on persuasion, as did all the earlier temperance societies. Ten years later the "Anti-Saloon League" was incorporated. Its object was to influence legislation. The word "Christian" was no longer used. These organizations all came into existence in this State. Early in the present century a county local option law was passed by the Ohio legislature under which a large number of counties voted dry. The liquor interests, however, soon succeeded in substituting for it the so-called Home Rule law, under which saloons are permitted by popular majorities in smaller districts. In 1912 the prohibition amendment to the State constitution was lost by less than forty thousand votes. The same issue has been before the people several times since in various guises. Many prohibitionists admit that their position is illogical, but they contend that logic and politics have little in common. They maintain that a Government conducted by the majority, a democracy, is a logical absurdity, while an aristocracy, the rule of the fittest, the best, is founded on a postulate that is thoroughly sound. They even contend that in politics "whatever is, is right," but that *right* in this sense is a constantly varying

quantity, since all Governments tend towards a "far-off divine event," "And the thoughts of men are widened with the progress of the suns."

During the last few years the prohibition cause has received a tremendous "boost" by data made public from time to time tending to show that there was a close connection between the German-American Alliance and the liquor interests. Dr. Hexamer is reported to have declared in a speech made by him in Milwaukee some years ago:

"We have suffered long the preachment that 'you Germans must allow yourselves to be assimilated, you must merge in the American people,' but no one will ever find us prepared to descend to an inferior level. No! We have made it our aim to elevate others to our level. We will not allow our two-thousand-year-old culture to be trodden down in this land. Many are giving our German culture to this land of their children, but that is possible only if we stand together and conquer this dark spirit of muckerdom and prohibition, just as Siegfried slew the dragon."

Many Americans have become convinced that if German culture as it has revealed itself is identified with the unrestricted license to drink ardent spirits, they want neither. Whether wise or unwise, right or wrong, prohibition is a product of institutions usually designated as Anglo-Saxon. It has made no progress on continental Europe, while its opponents in Canada are mainly French and in this country Germans or their descendants.

ATHENS, OHIO.

CHARLES W. SUPER.

A FINE RECORD

SIR,—In the August number of your valuable magazine there was a very interesting article by John Cole McKim, M.A., on "International Comity and the Japanese Woman" which had a footnote showing the incidence of venereal disease per annum per thousand in the armies of the countries named. It gave the United States army as the largest, 167.8 for the year 1907.

It also said that owing to teetotalism in our canteens it had run up to 196.99 in 1909. The correct figures for that year are 177.5.

I sent a copy of the footnote to the Honorable Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War, requesting him to give me the percentage per thousand of venereal diseases in our army from 1907 to the present time. I have just received a reply of which the enclosed is a copy.

Knowing your desire for accuracy and fairness, may I suggest that you print the enclosed letter in the October number of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW?

I am sure those who have sons, relatives or friends in the Expeditionary Force in France will be happy to know of the splendid condition there now.

NEW YORK CITY.

COLUMBUS O. JOHNSON.

[ENCLOSURE]

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
WASHINGTON

MR. COLUMBUS O. JOHNSON,
New York City.

SIR,—The Surgeon General directs me to answer your letter of August 8th to the Secretary of War, The Honorable Newton D. Baker, relating to statistics